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PTO/SB/21 (08-00)

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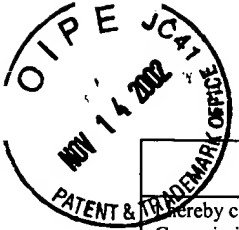
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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b>  (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)		Application Number	09/737,179
		Filing Date	December 13, 2000
		First Named Inventor	KHAN, TAHIR SADIK
		Group Art Unit	1743
		Examiner Name	ALEXANDER, LYLE
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	7	Attorney Docket Number	LIFE-016
<b>ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Documents <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): 1) Return Postcard	Remarks
<b>SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT</b>			
Firm or Individual Name	CAROL M. LASALLE (REG. NO. 39,740)		
Signature			
Date	November 7, 2002		

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<b>AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111</b>  Address to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231	Application Number	09/737,179 ✓
	Confirmation Number	8410 ✓
	Filing Date	December 13, 2000 ✓
	First Named Inventor	Tahir Sadik Khan ✓
	Examiner	Alexander, Lyle ✓
	Group Art	1743 ✓
	Attorney Docket No.	LIFE016 ✓

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Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated August 26, 2002 for which a three-month period for response was given making this response due on or before November 26, 2002. In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks put forth below, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

### AMENDMENTS

#### In the claims:

Please cancel Claims 8, 12, 15, 17, 22 and 28 in their entirety without disclaimer as to the subject matter contained therein.

#### Please amend the Claims as follows:

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1. A method of manufacturing a plurality of reagent test strips, said method comprising:
    - (a) providing a test strip precursor comprising an elongated support material having a first planar surface and a stripe of reagent material positioned along a central axis thereof; and
    - (b) cutting said test strip precursor into a plurality of reagent test strips according to an inter-digitating pattern, wherein each of said strips produced includes a sample region and a handling region, where said reagent material is located in said sample region.
  2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said test strip precursor is a continuous tape.